to meet the demand of the domestic consumers and LPG is being imported to meet the shortfall.

Royalty on Crude Oil

1159. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LAB-SHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the rates of royalty on crude oil for the period 1. 4. 87 to 31. 3. 90 and 1. 4. 90 to 31. 3. 1993;

(b) if so, whether this is an ad hoc revision pending fixation of intrinsic value of crude oil by an independent body; and

(c) what is the constitution and terms of reference of that independent body?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The Government have taken a decision to revise the rate of royalty on crude oil for the period on 1. 4. 87 to 31. 3. 90. The revised rate is Rs. 314j- per tonne.

(b) and (c) The revision of oil royalty from 1. 4. 87 to 1. 4. 90 is not an ad hoc revision. The Government have also decided to set up a Committee to examine the issue of fixation of rate of royalty for the period beyond 31. 3. 90.

The Committee which would have three members would have the following terms of reference: —

(1) To examine the various issues pertaining to revision in the rate of royalty on crude oil and §as> keeping in′ view:

(i) The need for large investments in the oil and gas sector to reduce the dependence on imports of oil and petroleum products in the coming decade.

(ii) present policy of total reliance on internal resource generation and non-availability of budgetary support for such investments;

(ui) principles followed in the revision in the rate of royalty for various other minerals;

(iv) augmentation of State revenues by way of sales tax and other taxes due to larger availability of oil and gas through increased investments in this sector and increased economic and industrial activity therefrom.

(v) submissions of the State Governments concerned; and

(vi) any other matter germane to the issue.

(2) To recommend specific principles for periodic revision in the rate of royalty so as to do away with the revision in the rate of royalty on *ad hoc* basis; and

(3) To suggest the periodicity for •revision in the rate of royalty, keeping in view the general recommendation of the Sarkaria commission on the subject.

Securing replies of Special Mentions made in the Rajya Sabha

1160. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFAFIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many Special Mention cases made by the Members of the Rajya Sabha during 1989-90 replies from the respective Ministries are yet to be received and what is the normal time taken by the Ministries to send replies to the members in such cases;

(b) whether any follow-up action is taken by his Ministry to secure replies to the members; and

(c) what steps are proposed to secure speedy replies to the members?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) During